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October 1, 2008

Mr. Sam Chummar
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 5 (SR-6J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**Subject: Plainwell Mill Property, Plainwell, Michigan
August – September 2008 Progress Report**

Dear Sam:

As required by Task 8, *Progress Reports*, in the Statement of Work for the RI/FS at the Plainwell Inc., Mill Property, I am submitting the attached progress report for the period from August 16 through September 19, 2008, for the above-referenced site.

Please call me at (253) 924-3746 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Weyerhaeuser Company

Jennifer Hale
Environmental Manager

cmk/attachments

cc: Paul Bucholtz, MDEQ
Erik Wilson, City of Plainwell
John Gross, Weyerhaeuser Company
Joe Jackowski, Weyerhaeuser Company
Mark Schneider, Perkins Coie
Kathy Huibregtse, RMT, Inc.
James Hutchens, RMT, Inc.
Michael Erickson, Arcadis

Progress Report No. 24
August 16, 2008, through September 19, 2008

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
Plainwell, Inc., Mill Property, Plainwell, Michigan

This progress report is being submitted in accordance with Task 8, *Progress Reports*, and the *Schedule for Major Deliverables* contained in the Statement of Work for the RI/FS at the Plainwell, Inc., Mill Property.

1. Operable Unit 7 – Plainwell Mill Site

Summary of Activities Undertaken in Support of the Community Relations Plan (completed during the current reporting period and anticipated during the next period):

- No activities were performed during this reporting period.

Summary of Any Modifications to the Work Plans or Other Schedules Proposed To, or Approved By, the USEPA:

- Weyerhaeuser is preparing the Work Plan for the initial groundwater phase of the RI/FS to incorporate comments from USEPA and MDEQ. The Work Plan will include additional assessment of the former coal conveyance tunnel.
- Activities associated with the RI/FS Addendum No. 1 included:
 - The USEPA approved the revised Phase 2 Addendum 1 Work Plan of the RI/FS on September 19, 2008.
 - The field work associated with placement of test pits is being scheduled.

2. Operable Unit 5 – Plainwell Mill Banks - Kalamazoo River

Activities performed as part of the Emergency Action during the current reporting period included:

- The USEPA issued a letter regarding disposal of the bank material on September 15, 2008. Weyerhaeuser is in the process of scheduling the material for removal to a licensed and permitted solid waste landfill.
- Due to increased rain, the containment pad area required pumping and treating of the accumulated water. The water will be pumped into the 20,000-gallon holding tank and recirculated through the system and sampled for PCBs.

Summary of Data Collected During the Current Reporting Period:

- No data has been collected over this reporting period.

Summary of Problems Encountered During the Current Reporting Period:

- Flooding of the Kalamazoo River occurred between September 12 and September 15, 2008. Over this time period, the river stage at Comstock, the closest recording station rose from 3.9 to 10.4 feet. On behalf of Weyerhaeuser, RMT monitored the high water conditions at the Plainwell Mill at least daily and sometimes more throughout the week of September 15. The river did slightly overbank onto the Mill property near the Mill race, but was not flowing onto the Mill property. The rip rap material and new vegetation on the face of the banks appears to be protecting the majority of shoreline along the mill from eroding at this time.
- Once the water recedes, the length of the bank will be inspected and a brief memo will be prepared with photographs identifying conditions and any associated problems. Based on that inspection, a plan will be

instituted to repair or replace any areas with identifiable erosion. A local supplier has been contracted and the rip rap material is available if needed.

Summary and Schedule of Work Anticipated During the Next Reporting Period:

- Disposal of the material removed as part of the Emergency Action along the Mill banks.
- Remobilization and demobilization of equipment and personnel from the site.
- Continue preparation of the documentation report for the Emergency Action.
- Begin field activities associated with the addendum described above.
- Finalize meeting date with USEPA and MDEQ in Plainwell on October 21, 2008.

Anticipated Problems Associated with Work During the Next Period:

- None.

Planned Resolution of Past or Anticipated Problems:

- None.

Other Relevant Information:

- None.